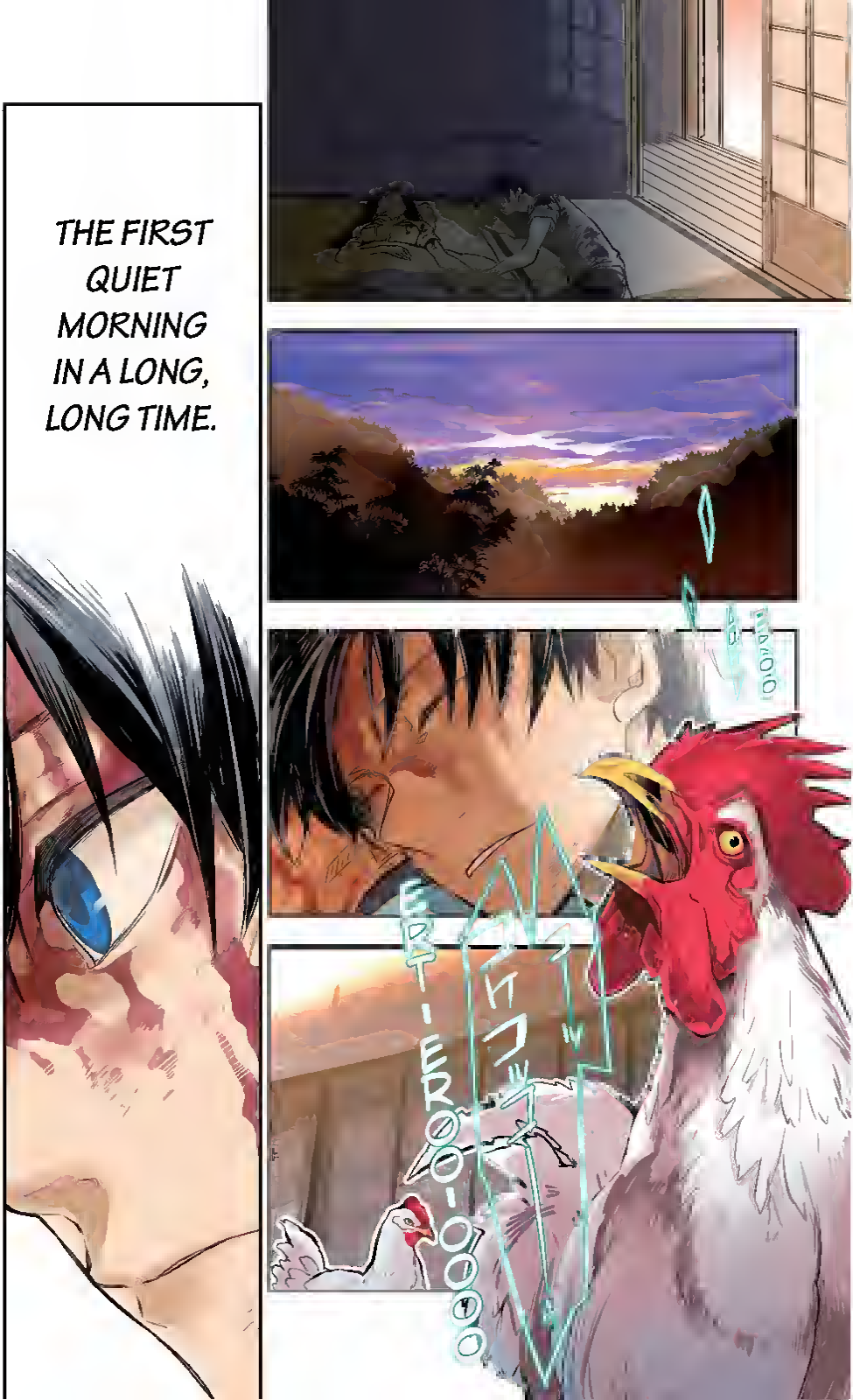
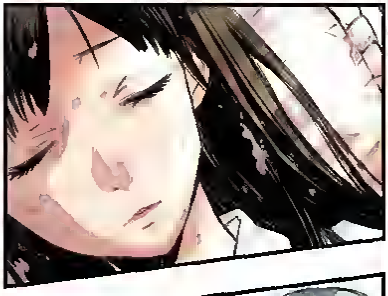

THE FIRST QUIET MORNING IN A LONG, LONG TIME.
コケコッコー
COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

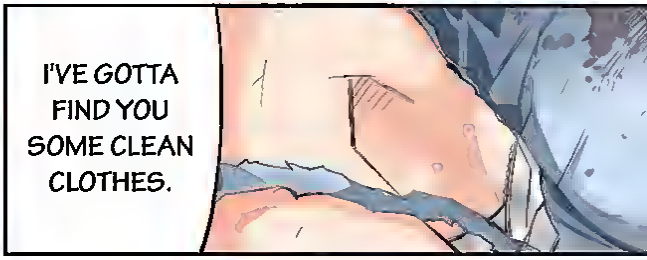
...AND ME.
JUST NATSUKO...
SUNDAY AUGUST 21, 12:24 A.M.
S GAME
IGIN
CHAPTER 29
STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA
ART BY J-TA YAMADA

AH, AND FOR ME TOO.



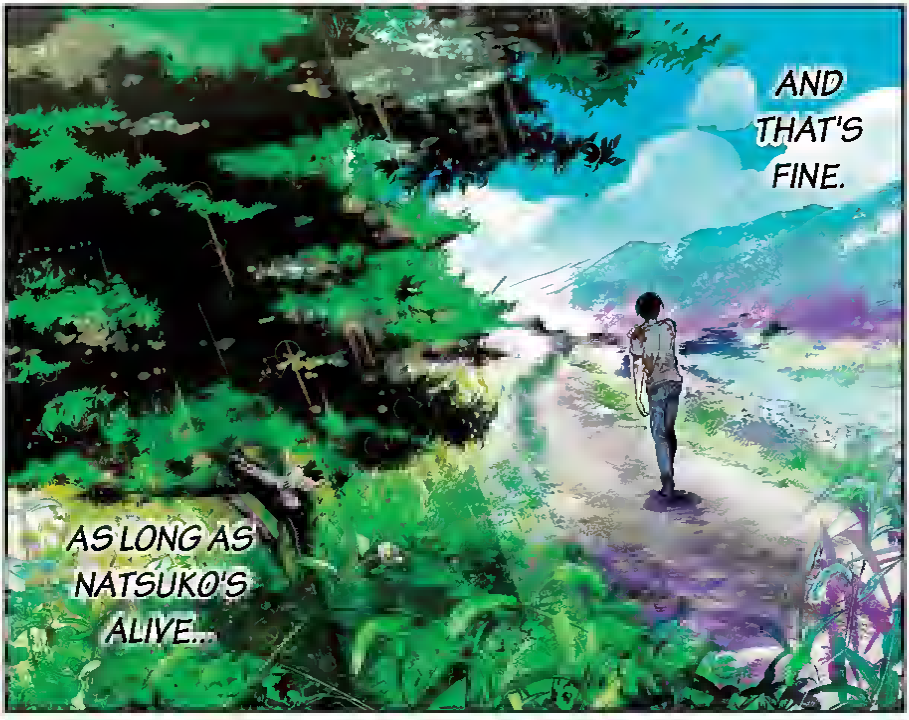
WAIT RIGHT THERE, OKAY?

GOOD MORNING, NATSUKO.
KING'S
ORI

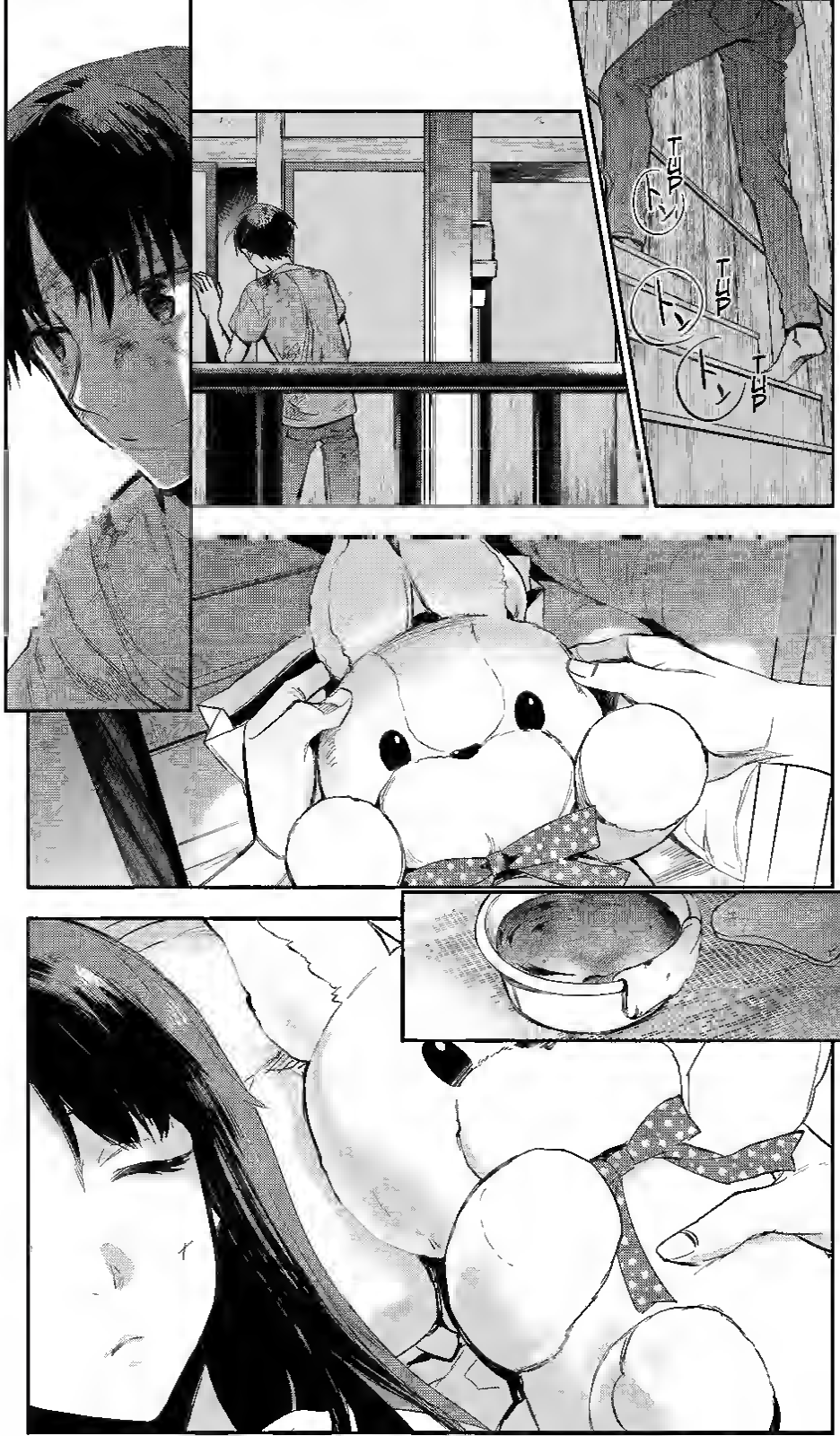

I'VE GOTTA FIND YOU SOME CLEAN CLOTHES.

IT'S QUIET...

THE VILLAGE IS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR THE TWO OF US.


AND THAT'S FINE.
AS LONG AS NATSUKO'S ALIVE...

SIGN: NATSUKO
...
OH!


TUP
トン
TUP
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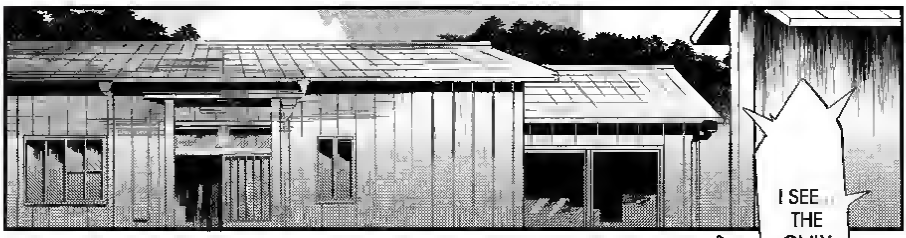
TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM...
IT'S NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY YET...
...BUT I'LL MAKE AN EXCEP-TION.
NAT-SUKO...

PLEASE . PLEASE WAKE UP, NATSUKO


I SEE... THE ONLY SURVI-VORS...
...ARE YOU AND NATSU-KO-KUN, THEN?

KNOWING THAT, YOU WON'T BE CHARGED ANY ES, 'T Y—

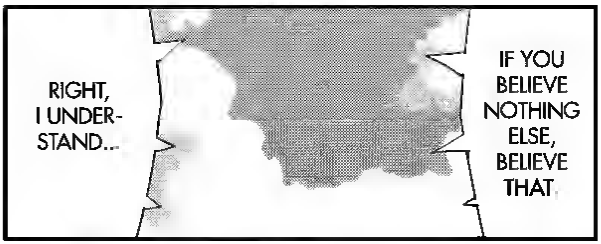
I DON'T CARE ONE BIT ABOUT THAT!
SEND A DAMN DOCTOR IN HERE!
NATSU-KO'S STILL UNCON-SCIOUS!

PLEASE, SAVE NATSU-KO!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAP-PENS TO ME!
I—
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GET SOMEONE THERE SOON.
TH-THANK YOU!
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO.
WE'LL NEED TO GATHER THE BODIES AS WELL.
YOU SHOULD TRY TO REST.
YOU WERE INJURED TOO, RIGHT?

TREASURE YOUR OWN LIFE.
KAZU-NARI-KUN...
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.
RIGHT...
TO BE FRANK...
WE'LL DO EVERY-THING WE CAN FROM HERE
FOCUS ON STAYING ALIVE, AND DON'T GET DESPER-ATE.
IF THEY MANAGE TO DEVEL-OP A VACCINE, WE CAN SAVE THE TWO OF YOU.
THEY'RE RE-SEARCH-ING THE VIRUS 24/7 OUT HERE.

SOME OF THOSE GOVERNMENT PUKES ARE HOPING YOU ALL DIE UP THERE
AFTER ALL, IF EVERY HOST DIES, THE VIRUS DIES WITH YOU.
BUT THEY'RE NOT ALL LIKE THAT.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK, SACRIFICING A LOT OF SLEEP TO TRY AND SAVE YOU.
DON'T FORGET THAT.
ｽﾔｽﾔ…ｳｳ…

LISTEN TO ME.
I FOLLOWED ORDERS AND EVACUATED TO PROTECT MY OWN LIFE.
BUT EVEN SO, I DON'T WANT TO SEE EITHER OF YOU DIE.
HA HA...


RIGHT, I UNDER-STAND...
IF YOU BELIEVE NOTHING ELSE, BELIEVE THAT.

VROOM
VROOO...

SHE'S EX-TREMELY WEAK.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT CAUSED THE TEMPORARY HEARING LOSS.
スゥ…
ZZZZ
YOU MEAN WHEN SHE GETS BETTER SHE'LL BE ABLE TO HEAR AGAIN?
NOTHING'S CERTAIN, BUT PROBABLY.
HERE ARE SOME PAINKILLERS TO GIVE HER WHEN SHE WAKES UP.
OH, OKAY.
WHAT IF SHE DOESN'T WAKE UP..?

...THEN YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.
YOU'RE TELLING ME SHE COULD DIE?!
THEN GET BACK HERE AND FINISH CHECKING HER!
NO...
SLUMP...
IF WE WERE IN A HOSPITAL I COULD DO A LOT MORE FOR HER BUT OUT HERE...
REGARDLESS, FOR NOW WE CAN ONLY SIT AND WAIT.
用薬
殿
NEXT...

SHIFF
SUNDAY
AUGUST 21,
12:24 A.M.

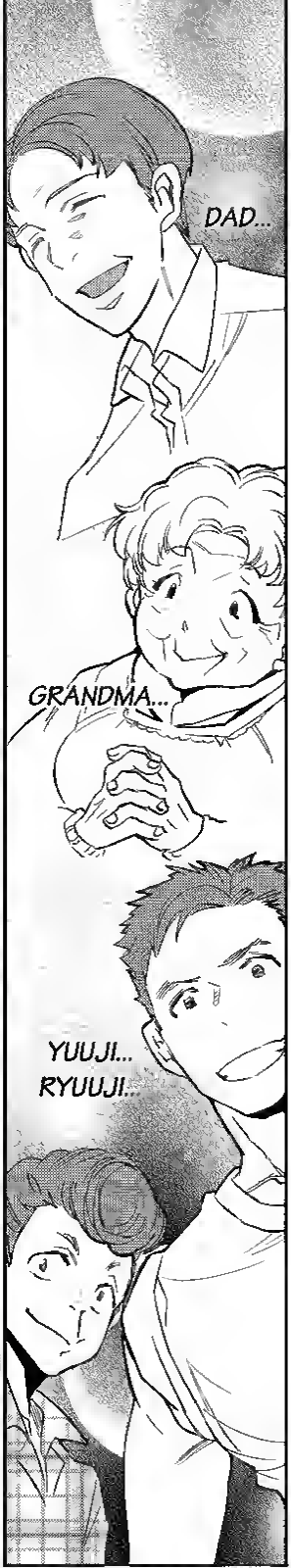
WE'RE THE ONLY PEOPLE
LEFT IN THE VILLAGE.

DRIP

THIS IS NO TIME FOR CRYING!
WIPE
GET A GRIP!

I'VE GOTTA PROTECT HER!

NO ONE SAID THE KING'S GAME WAS OVER.
I'M THE ONLY ONE AROUND TO CARE FOR NATSUKO.

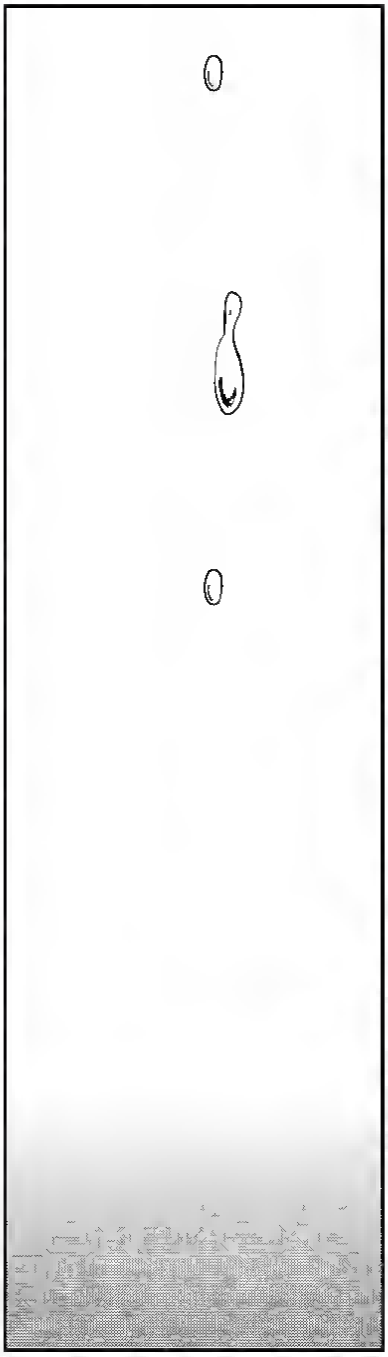

DAD...
GRANDMA...
YUUJI... RYUUJI...

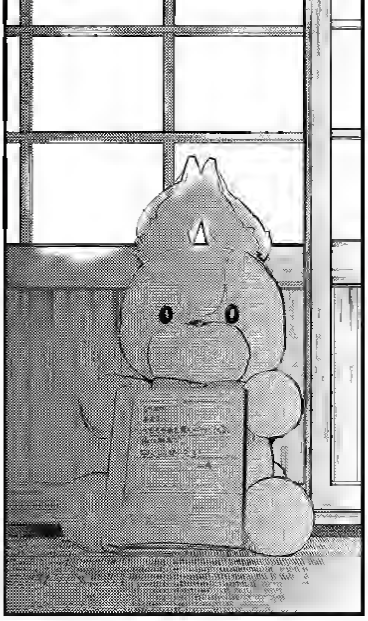
I DIDN'T FIND A LETTER THAT DAY.
MIDNIGHT CAME AND WENT, AND NOTHING HAPPENED TO EITHER OF US.
ANOTHER DAY WITHOUT A LETTER.
I LOOKED ALL OVER.
I DIDN'T JUST STOP AT THE BULLETIN BOARD, EITHER.
THE MEETING HALL...
EVERYONE'S HOUSES...
...

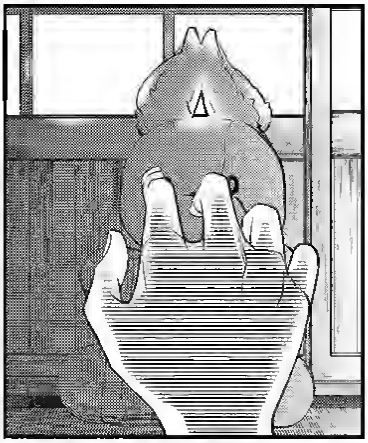
BUT, I'VE GOT NOTHING ELSE TO DO.
LOOKING ALL OVER FOR SOME-THING I DON'T WANT TO FIND.
IT'S STUPID, ISN'T IT?
I HAVEN'T FELT A THING THE WHOLE TIME.
SHE ASKED IF THE VIRUS WAS CAUSING ME ANY PAIN
SHE'S BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT ME.
OH YEAH, I TALKED TO MY MOM.
YOU REMEMBER HOW SHE'S BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL DOWN IN THE CITY, RIGHT?

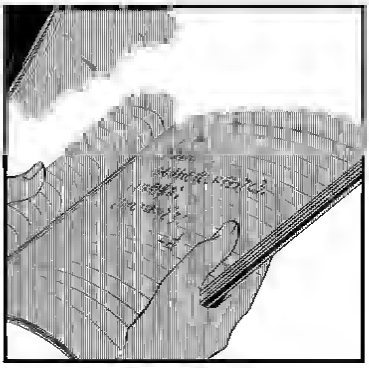
EXCEPT SOMETIMES... MY CHEST GETS TIGHT, DEEP DOWN ON THE LEFT SIDE...
WE'RE FINALLY ALONE TOGETHER... I SHOULD BE HAPPY.
OH.
PLAY NICE WITH NATSUKO WHEN SHE WAKES UP, ALL RIGHT?
BE A GOOD FRIEND.
I GUESS WE'RE NOT ALONE.
WE'VE GOT YOU, HUH, BUDDY?

AUGUST 21
THERE'S NO ONE MORE IMPORTANT TO ME.
AUGUST 24
PLEASE GET BETTER, NATSUKO.
AUGUST 25
August 25
To Natsuko
Going out to
I'll be fine
Take ca

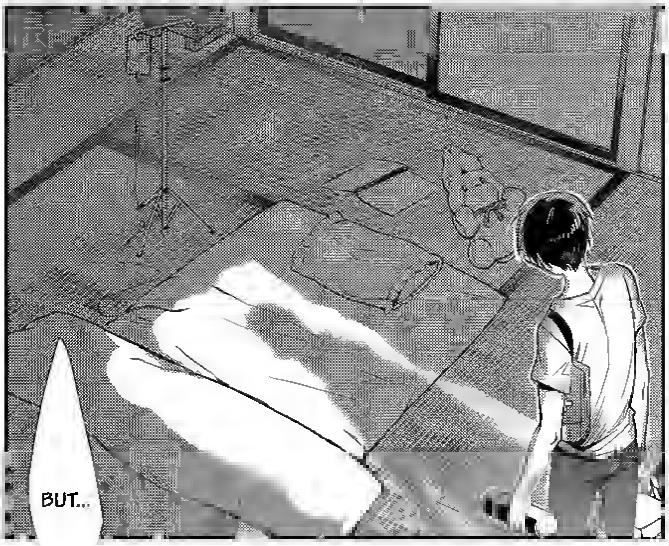








Journal August 25
To Natsuka
I'm going out to look for letters again.
I'm be fine.
Take care of yourself and rest till I get back.



THURSDAY
AUGUST 25,
5:36 P.M.

NATSU-KO!
BWIP
SHE WAS SLEEPING HERE THIS MORNING...
WHERE ARE YOU?!

SHIT!
DID SOME-ONE TAKE HER?
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYONE LEFT WHO'D BE TRYING TO HURT HER!

NATSUKO!
NATSUKO!
NATSUKO!

SIGN: STOREHOUSE

KA...
ZU-
NARI...
NATSUKO!
KAZU-
NARI..?
WHAT?
YOU
TURNED!
YOU CAN
HEAR ME!
NO
ONE'S...
HERE...
WHERE
IS...
EVERY-
ONE?
OH, THANK
GOD...

NH—
TELL ME.
THE KING'S GAME KEPT GOING EVEN AFTER YOU DISPPEARED.
THEY'RE...
EVERY-ONE ELSE IS DEAD.
FAINT
NATSUKO!
NO!

YOU CAN'T OVER-DO IT.
YOU'VE BEEN UNCON-SCIOUS FOR DAYS
AND YOU CARED FOR ME THE WHOLE TIME, HUH .
Y-YEAH
I HAD TO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES, SO DON'T GIVE ME ANY GRIEF
NO...
フフ：：NOD
I DON'T MIND ONE BIT.

WHO'S THIS?
THAT IS YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT.
I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT... YOU KNOW.
AWW...
NUZZLE NUZZLE
THANK YOU, KA-ZUNARI
I'LL TREASURE HIM.
AH!
DAMN RIGHT YOU WILL, HE WAS A FORTUNE!
I NEARLY SPENT A WHOLE MONTH OF ALLOWANCE, I'VE GOT LIKE A THOUSAND YEN LEFT!
HA HA HA...

THROB
OH, YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS..
THE DOCTOR LEFT YOU THESE PAINKILLERS.
H-HEY...
...YOU OKAY?
YEAH, MY HEAD HURTS A BIT...
THE... MEDICINE...
INTERNAL MEDICINE
DR.
USAGE
1 DAY PILLS
WITH / WITHOUT FOOD
YEAR MONTH
...
ACTUALLY, I SHOULD CALL HIM, HUH?
DON'T WORRY, THE MEDICINE SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

UMM... KAZU-NARI...
CAN YOU GET ME SOME WATER?
OH, SURE THING!

HERE
ONE GLASS OF WATER.
THANKS, KAZU-NARI.

WHAT'S WRONG?
I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT TO ME.
OH COME ON, YOU CAN SWALLOW A PILL, CAN'T YOU?
PLEASE?
SHEESH.. ALL RIGHT, YOU BIG BABY..
ごくん
GULP

THANK YOU SO MUCH.
NATSUKO, YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
NO...
ACTU-ALLY...
EARLIER YOU SAID THE "KING" WAS ACTUALLY A VIRUS?
A VIRUS THAT WAS CONTROLLING THE PERSON WRITING THE LETTERS?

IT WAS ME.
KAZUNARI.
HUH? YEAH, WHAT ABOUT IT?
HE